

# Get SMARTe: Decision Tools to Revitalize Communities



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SMARTe 2006 is available at: [www.smarte.org](http://www.smarte.org)

## Issue/Purpose

Developers choose to develop on greenspace instead of previously used land (e.g., brownfields) because of real and perceived obstacles to building on a potentially contaminated site. Developing greenspace contributes to urban sprawl, reduction of natural resources and destruction of natural systems. Sustainable Management Approaches and Revitalization Tools - electronic (SMARTe) is being developed in order to encourage reuse of property by providing ideas, resources, and analysis tools to overcome obstacles to revitalization.

## Approach

- Step 1: Baseline workshops to **identify obstacles** to revitalization
- Step 2: Feasibility study to **determine which obstacles** the U.S.-German Bilateral Working Group could address
- Step 3: Research and **develop tools and techniques** (i.e., SMARTe) to overcome obstacles to revitalization
- Step 4: **Beta-test** tools and techniques to determine if they facilitate revitalization

### Some of the Obstacles to Revitalization

- Identifying market and non-market costs and benefits of revitalization options
- Identifying private and public financing options
- Evaluating and communicating environmental risks
- Identifying and evaluating characterization, remediation, and long-term monitoring technologies
- Identifying state-specific information

## Development Strategy

SMARTe is being developed in an overlapping phased approach. The first phase is development of content, information and guidance. This phase began in 2001 and is ongoing. The second phase is development of stand-alone tools and templates to support each component of the revitalization process. This phase began in 2004 and is on-going. The third phase is development of a comprehensive, integrated, multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) system. This phase begins in 2006 and will be completed (for a site-specific application) in October 2007. An updated version of SMARTe is released each October so that users can beta test each version and provide feedback during development. After October 2007, SMARTe will be modified to allow regional planning and will be updated to contain tools related to sustainable revitalization. In sum:

### Annual updates to add tools and address comments

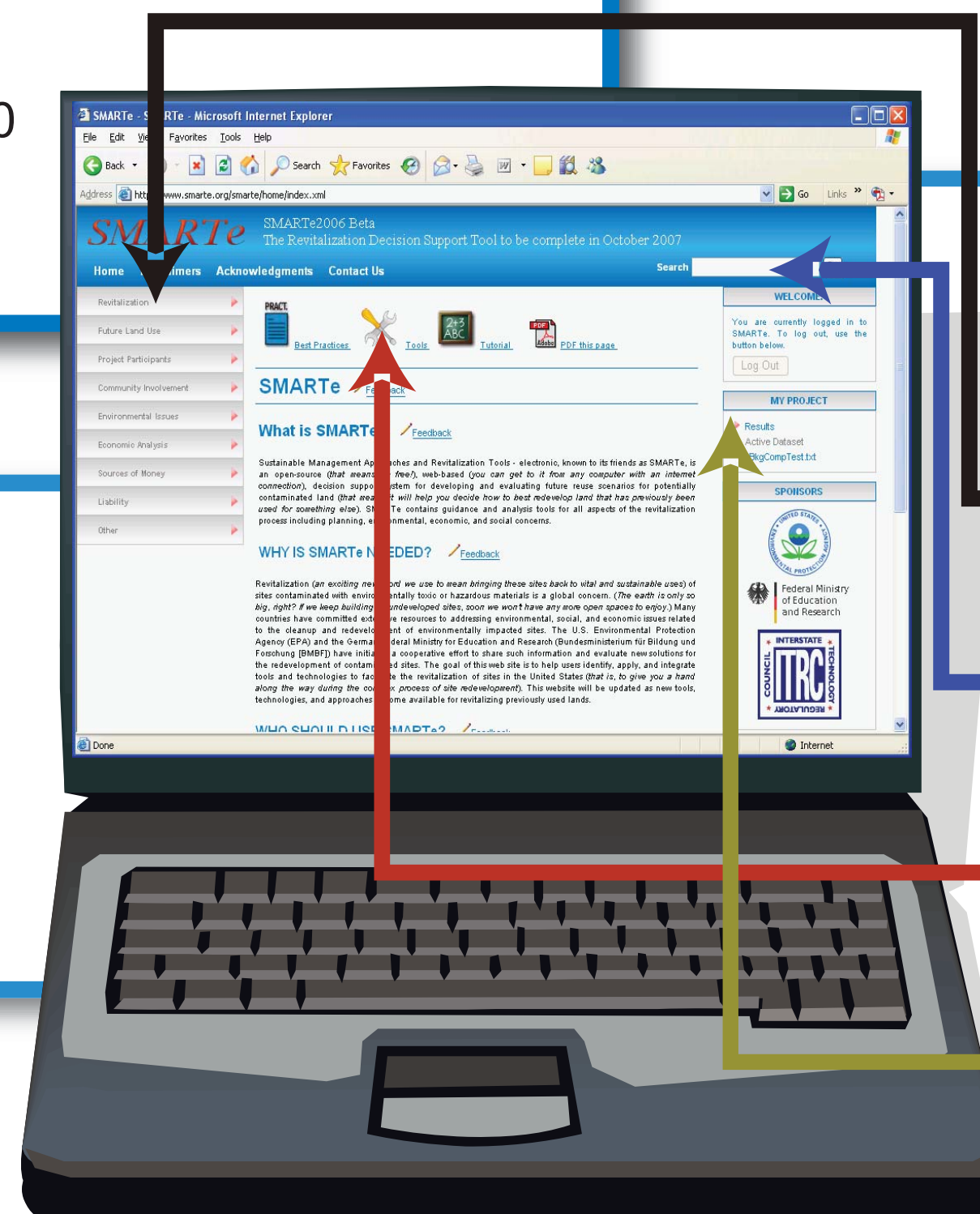
- SMARTe 2006: currently at: [www.smarte.org](http://www.smarte.org)
- SMARTe 2007: Available October 2006
- SMARTe 2008 (Complete decision support capability): Available October 2007

Development of sustainable revitalization tools: 2005-2010  
Final SMARTe: 2010 (updates as needed)  
Continuous beta testing and user feedback

## Product

### Sustainable Management Approaches and Revitalization Tools – electronic (SMARTe)

SMARTe is a FREE web-based decision support tool to assist brownfield revitalization stakeholders in the **development and evaluation of future reuse scenarios** for potentially contaminated sites.



## Furthering Agency's Goals

### US-German Bilateral Goals

- Facilitate Equitable Land Use
- Facilitate Faster Revitalization of Sites
- Allow Greater Independence from Public Money
- Enhance Benefits to Society



### EPA/Office of Brownfields Cleanup and Redevelopment (OBCR) Goals

#### Protecting the Environment

Addressing brownfields to ensure the health and well-being of America's people and environment.

#### Promoting Partnerships

Enhancing collaboration and communication essential to facilitate brownfields cleanup and reuse.

#### Strengthening the Marketplace

Providing financial and technical assistance to bolster the private market.

#### Sustaining Reuse

Redeveloping brownfields to enhance a community's long-term quality of life.

## Status

- **Beta Test Sites**
  - Stella, MO (SF site; old building; creek; eagle habitat)
  - Dakota City, NE (landfill)
  - Hall Blvd, Beaverton, OR (gas station)
- **Guidance and Communication Tool**



## Partners

### SMARTe is being developed by:

- US-German Bilateral Working Group
  - EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD)
  - German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF)
  - Office of Brownfields Cleanup and Redevelopment (OBCR)
  - Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC)
- Model Project personnel
- Universities (grants)
- TOSC/TAB Coordinators (grants)
- Office of Policy Economics and Innovation (OPEI)
- Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)



## SMARTe contains four primary components:

- eDocument – provides information, links, and resources regarding the revitalization process (left side bar)
- Search Engine – allows users to search for information, tools and best practices (top right)
- Toolbox – Contains electronic tools (e.g., searchable databases, templates, calculators) to analyze and solve revitalization issues (tool icon)
- Screening Tool – leads users through the entire revitalization process (My Project-available Oct. 2006; entire MCDA available Oct 2007)



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